



INDIANA
DEPARTMENT *of*
EDUCATION

2023 INDIANA ACADEMIC STANDARDS **SCIENCE**

GRADE 8



Indiana Academic Standards Context and Purpose

Introduction

The Indiana Academic Standards for Grade 8 Science are the result of a process designed to identify, evaluate, synthesize, and create high-quality, rigorous learning expectations for Indiana students.

Pursuant to Indiana Code (IC) 20-31-3-1(c-d), the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) facilitated the prioritization of the Indiana Academic Standards. All standards are required to be taught. Standards identified as essential for mastery by the end of the grade level are indicated with the word “Essential” under the standard number.

The Indiana Academic Standards are designed to ensure that all Indiana students, upon graduation, are prepared with essential knowledge and skills needed to access employment, enrollment, or enlistment leading to service.

What are the Indiana Academic Standards and how should they be used?

The Indiana Academic Standards for Grades K-12 Science are based on *A Framework for K-12 Science Education* (NRC, 2012) and the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS Lead States, 2013). The following conceptual shifts reflect what is new about these science standards. The Indiana Academic Standards for Science:

- Reflect science as it is practiced and experienced in the real world;
- Build logically from kindergarten through grade 12;
- Focus on deeper understanding as well as application of content; and
- Integrate practices, crosscutting concepts, and core ideas.

The K-12 Science Indiana Academic Standards outline the knowledge, science, and engineering practices that all students should learn by the end of high school. The standards are three-dimensional because each student performance expectation engages students at the nexus of the following three dimensions:

- **Dimension 1** describes scientific and engineering practices.
- **Dimension 2** describes crosscutting concepts, overarching science concepts that apply across science disciplines.
- **Dimension 3** describes core ideas in the science disciplines.

Science and Engineering Practices (as found in NGSS)

The eight practices describe what scientists use to investigate and build models and theories of the world around them or that engineers use as they build and design systems. The practices are essential for all students to learn and are as follows:

1. Asking questions (for science) and defining problems (for engineering);
2. Developing and using models;
3. Planning and carrying out investigations;
4. Analyzing and interpreting data;

5. Using mathematics and computational thinking;
6. Constructing explanations for science and designing solutions for engineering;
7. Engaging in argument from evidence; and
8. Obtaining, evaluating, and communicating information.

Crosscutting Concepts (*as found in NGSS*)

The seven crosscutting concepts bridge disciplinary boundaries and unit core ideas throughout the fields of science and engineering. Their purpose is to help students deepen their understanding of the disciplinary core ideas, and develop a coherent, and scientifically based view of the world. The seven crosscutting concepts are as follows:

1. *Patterns*. Observed patterns of forms and events guide organization and classification, and prompt questions about relationships and the factors that influence them.
2. *Cause and Effect: Mechanism and Explanation*. Events have causes, sometimes simple, sometimes multifaceted. A major activity of science is investigating and explaining causal relationships and the mechanisms by which they are mediated. Such mechanisms can then be tested across given contexts and used to predict and explain events in new contexts.
3. *Scale, Proportion, and Quantity*. In considering phenomena, it is critical to recognize what is relevant at different measures of size, time, and energy and to recognize how changes in scale, proportion, or quantity affect a system's structure or performance.
4. *Systems and System Models*. Defining the system under study—specifying its boundaries and making explicit a model of that system—provides tools for understanding and testing ideas that are applicable throughout science and engineering.
5. *Energy and Matter: Flows, Cycles, and Conservation*. Tracking fluxes of energy and matter into, out of, and within systems helps one understand the systems' possibilities and limitations.
6. *Structure and Function*. The way in which an object or living thing is shaped and its substructure determines many of its properties and functions.
7. *Stability and Change*. For natural and built systems alike, conditions of stability and determinants of rates of change or evolution of a system are critical elements of study.

Disciplinary Core Ideas (*as found in NGSS*)

The disciplinary core ideas describe the content that occurs at each grade or course. The K-12 Science Indiana Academic Standards focus on a limited number of core ideas in science and engineering both within and across the disciplines and are built on the notion of learning as a developmental progression. The Disciplinary Core Ideas are grouped into the following domains:

- Physical Science (PS)
- Life Science (LS)
- Earth and Space Science (ESS)
- Engineering, Technology and Applications of Science (ETS)

While the Indiana Academic Standards establish key expectations for knowledge and skills and should be used as the basis for curriculum, the standards by themselves do not constitute a

curriculum. It is the responsibility of the local school corporation to select and formally adopt curricular tools, including textbooks and any other supplementary materials, that align with Indiana Academic Standards. Additionally, corporation and school leaders should consider the appropriate instructional sequence of the standards as well as the length of time needed to teach each standard. Every standard has a unique place in the continuum of learning, but each standard will not require the same amount of time and attention. A deep understanding of the vertical articulation of the standards will enable educators to make the best instructional decisions. These standards must also be complemented by robust, evidence-based instructional practices to support overall student development. By utilizing strategic and intentional instructional practices, other areas such as STEM and employability skills can be integrated with the content standards.

Acknowledgments

The Indiana Department of Education appreciates the time, dedication, and expertise offered by Indiana's K-12 educators, higher education professors, representatives from business and industry, families, and other stakeholders who contributed to the development of the Indiana Academic Standards. We wish to specially acknowledge the committee members, as well as participants in the public comment period, who dedicated many hours to the review and evaluation of these standards designed to prepare Indiana students for success after graduation.

References

- National Research Council. 2012. *A Framework for K-12 Science Education: Practices, Crosscutting Concepts, and Core Ideas*. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press. <https://doi.org/10.17226/13165>.
- NGSS Lead States. 2013. *Next Generation Science Standards: For States, By States*. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press.

How to Read the Indiana Academic Standards for K-12 Science

Standard Number	Title	The title for a set of performance expectations is not necessarily unique and may be reused at several different grade levels.
Students who demonstrate understanding can:		
Standard Number	Performance Expectation: A statement that combines practices, core ideas, and crosscutting concepts together to describe how students can show what they have learned. [Clarification Statement: A statement that supplies examples or additional clarification to the performance expectation.]	
Essential		
<div data-bbox="237 602 703 635" data-label="Section-Header"> <h3>Science and Engineering Practices</h3> </div> <p data-bbox="175 653 732 729">Science and Engineering Practices are activities that scientists and engineers engage in to either understand the world or solve the problem.</p> <p data-bbox="175 746 745 823">There are 8 practices. These are integrated into each standard. They were previously found at the beginning of each grade level content standard and known as SEPs.</p> <div data-bbox="269 849 670 875" data-label="Section-Header"> <h4>Connections to the Nature of Science</h4> </div> <p data-bbox="175 901 646 954">Connections are listed in either practices or the crosscutting concepts section.</p>		<div data-bbox="967 602 1281 635" data-label="Section-Header"> <h3>Disciplinary Core Ideas</h3> </div> <p data-bbox="802 646 1446 722">Disciplinary Core Ideas are concepts in science and engineering that have broad importance within and across disciplines as well as relevance in people's lives.</p> <p data-bbox="802 736 1442 788">To be considered core, the ideas should meet at least two of the following criteria and ideally all four:</p> <ul data-bbox="850 799 1442 1094" style="list-style-type: none"> • Have broad importance across multiple sciences or engineering disciplines or be a key organizing concept of a single discipline. • Provide a key tool for understanding or investigating more complex ideas and solving problems. • Relate to the interests and life experiences of students or be connected to societal or personal concerns that require scientific or technological knowledge. • Be teachable and learnable over multiple grades at increasing levels of depth and sophistication. <p data-bbox="802 1105 1419 1181">Disciplinary ideas are grouped in four domains: the physical sciences; the life sciences; the earth and space sciences; and engineering, technology, and applications of science.</p> <p data-bbox="802 1192 1446 1297">A disciplinary core idea is identified as "(secondary)" when the other featured disciplinary core ideas connect to the science and engineering practices and crosscutting concepts as the main focus of the performance expectation.</p> <p data-bbox="802 1308 1401 1360">A boundary statement, where applicable, provides guidance regarding the scope of a performance expectation.</p> <div data-bbox="967 1404 1281 1437" data-label="Section-Header"> <h3>Crosscutting Concepts</h3> </div> <p data-bbox="802 1447 1455 1524">Crosscutting concepts are seven ideas such as Patterns and Cause and Effect, which are not specific to any one discipline but cut across them all.</p> <p data-bbox="802 1537 1455 1642">Crosscutting concepts have value because they provide students with connections and intellectual tools that are related across the differing areas of disciplinary content and can enrich their application of practices and their understanding of core ideas.</p> <div data-bbox="813 1657 1442 1710" data-label="Section-Header"> <h4>Connections to Engineering, Technology and Applications of Science</h4> </div> <ul data-bbox="850 1720 1414 1797" style="list-style-type: none"> • These connections are drawn from either the Disciplinary Core Ideas or Science and Engineering Practices.

Note: Performance Expectations, Science and Engineering Practices, Disciplinary Core Ideas, and Crosscutting Concepts appear as defined in the Next Generation Science Standards.

MS-PS1-1 Matter and its Interactions	
Students who demonstrate understanding can:	
MS-PS1-1 Essential	Develop models to describe the atomic composition of simple molecules and extended structures. [Clarification Statement: Emphasis is on developing models of molecules that vary in complexity. Examples of simple molecules could include ammonia and methanol. Examples of extended structures could include sodium chloride or diamonds. Examples of molecular-level models could include drawings, 3D ball and stick structures, or computer representations showing different molecules with different types of atoms.]
Science and Engineering Practices SEP.2: Developing and Using Models Modeling in 6–8 builds on K–5 and progresses to developing, using, and revising models to describe, test, and predict more abstract phenomena and design systems. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a model to predict and/or describe phenomena. 	Disciplinary Core Ideas PS1.A: Structure and Properties of Matter <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Substances are made from different types of atoms, which combine with one another in various ways. Atoms form molecules that range in size from two to thousands of atoms. Solids may be formed from molecules, or they may be extended structures with repeating subunits (e.g., crystals).
	Crosscutting Concepts CC.3: Scale, Proportion, and Quantity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Time, space, and energy phenomena can be observed at various scales using models to study systems that are too large or too small.

Note: Performance Expectations, Science and Engineering Practices, Disciplinary Core Ideas, and Crosscutting Concepts appear as defined in the Next Generation Science Standards.

MS-PS1-2 Matter and Its Interactions

Students who demonstrate understanding can:

MS-PS1-2 **Analyze and interpret data on the properties of substances before and after the substances interact to determine if a chemical reaction has occurred.** [Clarification Statement: Examples of reactions could include burning sugar or steel wool, fat reacting with sodium hydroxide, and mixing zinc with hydrogen chloride.]

Essential

Science and Engineering Practices**SEP.4: Analyzing and Interpreting Data**

Analyzing data in 6–8 builds on K–5 and progresses to extending quantitative analysis to investigations, distinguishing between correlation and causation, and basic statistical techniques of data and error analysis.

- Analyze and interpret data to determine similarities and differences in findings.

Connections to Nature of Science

Scientific Knowledge is Based on Empirical Evidence

- Science knowledge is based upon logical and conceptual connections between evidence and explanations.

Disciplinary Core Ideas**PS1.A: Structure and Properties of Matter**

- Each pure substance has characteristic physical and chemical properties (for any bulk quantity under given conditions) that can be used to identify it.

PS1.B: Chemical Reactions

- Substances react chemically in characteristic ways. In a chemical process, the atoms that make up the original substances are regrouped into different molecules, and these new substances have different properties from those of the reactants.

Crosscutting Concepts**CC.1: Patterns**

- Macroscopic patterns are related to the nature of microscopic and atomic-level structure.

Note: Performance Expectations, Science and Engineering Practices, Disciplinary Core Ideas, and Crosscutting Concepts appear as defined in the Next Generation Science Standards.

MS-PS1-3 Matter and its Interactions

Students who demonstrate understanding can:

- MS-PS1-3** **Gather and make sense of information to describe that synthetic materials come from natural resources and impact society.** [Clarification Statement: Emphasis is on natural resources that undergo a chemical process to form the synthetic material. Examples of new materials could include new medicine, foods, and alternative fuels.]

Science and Engineering Practices**SEP.8: Obtaining, Evaluating, and Communicating Information**

Obtaining, evaluating, and communicating information in 6–8 builds on K–5 and progresses to evaluating the merit and validity of ideas and methods.

- Gather, read, and synthesize information from multiple appropriate sources and assess the credibility, accuracy, and possible bias of each publication and methods used, and describe how they are supported or now supported by evidence.

Disciplinary Core Ideas**PS1.A: Structure and Properties of Matter**

- Each pure substance has characteristic physical and chemical properties (for any bulk quantity under given conditions) that can be used to identify it.

PS1.B: Chemical Reactions

- Substances react chemically in characteristic ways. In a chemical process, the atoms that make up the original substances are regrouped into different molecules, and these new substances have different properties from those of the reactants.

Crosscutting Concepts**CC.6: Structure and Function**

- Structures can be designed to serve particular functions by taking into account properties of different materials, and how materials can be shaped and used.

Connections to Engineering, Technology, and Applications of Science

Interdependence of Science, Engineering, and Technology

- Engineering advances have led to important discoveries in virtually every field of science, and scientific discoveries have led to the development of entire industries and engineered systems.

Influence of Science, Engineering and Technology on Society and the Natural World

- The uses of technologies and any limitation on their use are driven by individual or societal needs, desires, and values; by the findings of scientific research; and by differences in such factors as climate, natural resources, and economic conditions. Thus, technology use varies from region to region and over time.

Note: Performance Expectations, Science and Engineering Practices, Disciplinary Core Ideas, and Crosscutting Concepts appear as defined in the Next Generation Science Standards.

MS-PS1-4 Matter and its Interactions

Students who demonstrate understanding can:

- MS-PS1-4** **Develop a model that predicts and describes changes in particle motion, temperature, and state of a pure substance when thermal energy is added or removed.** [Clarification Statement: Emphasis is on qualitative molecular-level models of solids, liquids, and gases to show that adding or removing thermal energy increases or decreases kinetic energy of the particles until a change of state occurs. Examples of models could include drawing and diagrams. Examples of particles could include molecules or inert atoms. Examples of pure substances could include water, carbon dioxide, and helium.]

Science and Engineering Practices**SEP.2: Developing and Using Models**

Modeling in 6–8 builds on K–5 and progresses to developing, using, and revising models to describe, test, and predict more abstract phenomena and design systems.

- Develop a model to predict and/or describe phenomena.

Disciplinary Core Ideas**PS1.A: Structure and Properties of Matter**

- Gases and liquids are made of molecules or inert atoms that are moving about relative to each other.
- In a liquid, the molecules are constantly in contact with others; in a gas, they are widely spaced except when they happen to collide. In a solid, atoms are closely spaced and may vibrate in position but do not change relative locations.
- The changes of state that occur with variations in temperature or pressure can be described and predicted using these models of matter.

PS3.A: Definitions of Energy

- The term “heat” as used in everyday language refers both to thermal energy (the motion of atoms or molecules within a substance) and the transfer of that thermal energy from one object to another. In science, heat is used only for this second meaning; it refers to the energy transferred due to the temperature difference between two objects. (*secondary*)
- The temperature of a system is proportional to the average internal kinetic energy and potential energy per atom or molecule (whichever is the appropriate building block for the system’s material). The details of that relationship depend on the type of atom or molecule and the interactions among the atoms in the material. Temperature is not a direct measure of a system’s total thermal energy. The total thermal energy (sometimes called the total internal energy) of a system depends jointly on the temperature, the total number of atoms in the system, and the state of the material. (*secondary*)

Crosscutting Concepts**CC.2: Cause and Effect**

- Cause and effect relationships may be used to predict phenomena in natural or designed systems.

Note: Performance Expectations, Science and Engineering Practices, Disciplinary Core Ideas, and Crosscutting Concepts appear as defined in the Next Generation Science Standards.

MS-PS1-5 Matter and its Interactions	
Students who demonstrate understanding can:	
MS-PS1-5 Develop and use a model to describe how the total number of atoms does not change in a chemical reaction and thus mass is conserved. [Clarification Statement: Emphasis is on law of conservation of matter and on physical models or drawings, including digital forms, that represent atoms.]	
<div>Science and Engineering Practices</div> <div>SEP.2: Developing and Using Models</div> <p>Modeling in 6–8 builds on K–5 and progresses to developing, using, and revising models to describe, test, and predict more abstract phenomena and design systems.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a model to describe unobservable mechanisms. <p>-----</p> <p>Connections to Nature of Science</p> <p>Science Models, Laws, Mechanisms, and Theories Explain Natural Phenomena</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Laws are regularities or mathematical descriptions of natural phenomena. 	<div>Disciplinary Core Ideas</div> <div>PS1.B: Chemical Reactions</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Substances react chemically in characteristic ways. In a chemical process, the atoms that make up the original substances are regrouped into different molecules, and these new substances have different properties from those of the reactants. The total number of each type of atom is conserved, and thus the mass does not change. <div>Crosscutting Concepts</div> <div>CC.5: Energy and Matter</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Matter is conserved because atoms are conserved in physical and chemical processes.

Note: Performance Expectations, Science and Engineering Practices, Disciplinary Core Ideas, and Crosscutting Concepts appear as defined in the Next Generation Science Standards.

MS-PS1-6 Matter and its Interactions

Students who demonstrate understanding can:

- MS-PS1-6** Undertake a design project to construct, test, and modify a device that either releases or absorbs thermal energy by chemical processes. [Clarification Statement: Emphasis is on the design, controlling the transfer of energy to the environment, and modification of a device using factors such as type and concentration of a substance. Examples of designs could involve chemical reactions such as dissolving ammonium chloride or calcium chloride.]

Science and Engineering Practices**SEP.6: Constructing Explanations and Designing Solutions**

Constructing explanations and designing solutions in 6–8 builds on K–5 experiences and progresses to include constructing explanations and designing solutions supported by multiple sources of evidence consistent with scientific knowledge, principles, and theories.

- Undertake a design project, engaging in the design cycle, to construct and/or implement a solution that meets specific design criteria and constraints.

Disciplinary Core Ideas**PS1.B: Chemical Reactions**

- Some chemical reactions release energy, others store energy.

ETS1.B: Developing Possible Solutions

- A solution needs to be tested, and then modified based on the test results, in order to improve it. (*secondary*)

ETS1.C: Optimizing the Design Solution

- Although one design may not perform the best across all tests, identifying the characteristics of the design that performed the best in each test can provide useful information for the redesign process - that is, some of the characteristics may be incorporated into the new design. (*secondary*)
- The iterative process of testing the most promising solutions and modifying what is proposed based on the test results leads to greater refinement and ultimately to an optimal solution. (*secondary*)

Crosscutting Concepts**CC.5: Energy and Matter**

- The transfer of energy can be tracked as energy flows through a designed or natural system.

Note: Performance Expectations, Science and Engineering Practices, Disciplinary Core Ideas, and Crosscutting Concepts appear as defined in the Next Generation Science Standards.

MS-LS1-4 From Molecules to Organisms: Structures and Processes

Students who demonstrate understanding can:

- MS-LS1-4** Use argument based on empirical evidence and scientific reasoning to support an explanation for how characteristic animal behaviors and specialized plant structures affect the probability of successful reproduction of animals and plants, respectively. [Clarification Statement: Examples of behaviors that affect the probability of animal reproduction could include nest building to protect young from cold, herding of animals to protect young from predators, and vocalization of animals and colorful plumage to attract mates for breeding. Examples of animal behaviors that affect the probability of plant reproduction could include transferring pollen or seeds and creating conditions for seed germination and growth. Examples of plant structures could include bright flowers attracting butterflies that transfer pollen, flower nectar and odors that attract insects that transfer pollen, and hard shells on nuts that squirrels bury.]

Science and Engineering Practices**SEP.7: Engaging in Argument from Evidence**

Engaging in argument from evidence in 6–8 builds on K–5 experiences and progresses to constructing a convincing argument that supports or refutes claims for either explanations or solutions about the natural and designed world(s).

- Use an oral and written argument supported by empirical evidence and scientific reasoning to support or refute an explanation or a model for a phenomenon or a solution to a problem.

Disciplinary Core Ideas**LS1.B: Growth and Development of Organisms**

- Animals engage in characteristic behaviors that increase the odds of reproduction.
- Plants reproduce in a variety of ways, sometimes depending on animal behavior and specialized features for reproduction.

Crosscutting Concepts**CC.2: Cause and Effect**

- Phenomena may have more than one cause, and some cause-and-effect relationships in systems can only be described using probability.

Note: Performance Expectations, Science and Engineering Practices, Disciplinary Core Ideas, and Crosscutting Concepts appear as defined in the Next Generation Science Standards.

MS-LS1-5 From Molecules to Organisms: Structures and Processes

Students who demonstrate understanding can:

- MS-LS1-5** **Construct a scientific explanation based on evidence for how environmental and genetic factors influence the growth of organisms.** [Clarification Statement: Examples of local environmental conditions could include availability of food, light, space, and water. Examples of genetic factors could include large breed cattle and species of grass affecting growth of organisms. Examples of evidence could include drought decreasing plant growth, fertilizer increasing plant growth, different varieties of plant seeds growing at different rates in different conditions, and fish growing larger in large ponds than they do in small ponds.]
- Essential**

Science and Engineering Practices**SEP.6: Constructing Explanations and Designing Solutions**

Constructing explanations and designing solutions in 6–8 builds on K–5 experiences and progresses to include constructing explanations and designing solutions supported by multiple sources of evidence consistent with scientific knowledge, principles, and theories.

- Construct a scientific explanation based on valid and reliable evidence obtained from sources (including the students' own experiments) and the assumption that theories and laws that describe the natural world operate today as they did in the past and will continue to do so in the future.

Disciplinary Core Ideas**LS1.B: Growth and Development of Organisms**

- Genetic factors as well as local conditions affect the growth of the adult plant.

Crosscutting Concepts**CC.2: Cause and Effect**

- Phenomena may have more than one cause, and some cause-and-effect relationships in systems can only be described using probability.

Note: Performance Expectations, Science and Engineering Practices, Disciplinary Core Ideas, and Crosscutting Concepts appear as defined in the Next Generation Science Standards.

MS-LS3-1 Heredity: Inheritance and Variation of Traits

Students who demonstrate understanding can:

- MS-LS3-1** **Develop and use a model to describe why structural changes to genes (mutations) located on chromosomes may affect proteins and may result in harmful, beneficial, or neutral effects to the structure and function of the organism. [Clarification Statement: Emphasis is on conceptual understanding that changes in genetic material may result in making different proteins.]**

Science and Engineering Practices**SEP.2: Developing and Using Models**

Modeling in 6–8 builds on K–5 experiences and progresses to developing, using, and revising models to describe, test, and predict more abstract phenomena and design systems.

- Develop and use a model to describe phenomena.

Disciplinary Core Ideas**LS3.A: Inheritance of Traits**

- Genes are located in the chromosomes of cells, with each chromosome pair containing two variants of each of many distinct genes. Each distinct gene chiefly controls the production of specific proteins, which in turn affects the traits of the individual. Changes (mutations) to genes can result in changes to proteins, which can affect the structures and functions of the organism and thereby change traits.

LS3.B: Variation of Traits

- In addition to variations that arise from sexual reproduction, genetic information can be altered because of mutations. Though rare, mutations may result in changes to the structure and function of proteins. Some changes are beneficial, others harmful, and some neutral to the organism.

Crosscutting Concepts**CC.6: Structure and Function**

- Complex and microscopic structures and systems can be visualized, modeled, and used to describe how their function depends on the shapes, composition, and relationships among its parts, therefore complex natural structures/systems can be analyzed to determine how they function.

Note: Performance Expectations, Science and Engineering Practices, Disciplinary Core Ideas, and Crosscutting Concepts appear as defined in the Next Generation Science Standards.

MS-LS3-2 Heredity: Inheritance and Variation of Traits

Students who demonstrate understanding can:

MS-LS3-2 **Develop and use a model to describe why asexual reproduction results in offspring with identical genetic information and sexual reproduction results in offspring with genetic variation.** [Clarification Statement: Emphasis is on using models such as Punnett squares, diagrams, and simulations to describe the cause-and-effect relationship of gene transmission from parent(s) to offspring and resulting genetic variation.]

Essential

Science and Engineering Practices**SEP.2: Developing and Using Models**

Modeling in 6–8 builds on K–5 experiences and progresses to developing, using, and revising models to describe, test, and predict more abstract phenomena and design systems.

- Develop and use a model to describe phenomena.

Disciplinary Core Ideas**LS1.B: Growth and Development of Organisms**

- Organisms reproduce, either sexually or asexually, and transfer their genetic information to their offspring. (*secondary*)

LS3.A: Inheritance of Traits

- Variations of inherited traits between parent and offspring arise from genetic differences that result from the subset of chromosomes (and therefore genes) inherited.

LS3.B: Variation of Traits

- In sexually reproducing organisms, each parent contributes half of the genes acquired (at random) by the offspring. Individuals have two of each chromosome and hence two alleles of each gene, one acquired from each parent. These versions may be identical or may differ from each other.

Crosscutting Concepts**CC.2: Cause and Effect**

- Cause and effect relationships may be used to predict phenomena in natural systems.

Note: Performance Expectations, Science and Engineering Practices, Disciplinary Core Ideas, and Crosscutting Concepts appear as defined in the Next Generation Science Standards.

MS-LS4-1 Biological Evolution: Unity and Diversity

Students who demonstrate understanding can:

- MS-LS4-1** Analyze and interpret data for patterns in the fossil record that document the existence, diversity, extinction, and change of life forms throughout the history of life on Earth under the assumption that natural laws operate today as in the past. [Clarification Statement: Emphasis is on finding patterns of changes in the level of complexity of anatomical structures in organisms and the chronological order of fossil appearance in the rock layers.]

Science and Engineering Practices**SEP.4: Analyzing and Interpreting Data**

Analyzing data in 6–8 builds on K–5 experiences and progresses to extending quantitative analysis to investigations, distinguishing between correlation and causation, and basic statistical techniques of data and error analysis.

- Analyze and interpret data to determine similarities and differences in findings.

Connections to Nature of Science**Scientific Knowledge is Based on Empirical Evidence**

- Science knowledge is based upon logical and conceptual connections between evidence and explanations.

Disciplinary Core Ideas**LS4.A: Evidence of Common Ancestry and Diversity**

- The collection of fossils and their placement in chronological order (e.g., through the location of the sedimentary layers in which they are found or through radioactive dating) is known as the fossil record. It documents the existence, diversity, extinction, and change of many life forms throughout the history of life on Earth.

Crosscutting Concepts**CC.1: Patterns**

- Graphs, charts, and images can be used to identify patterns in data.

Connections to Nature of Science**Scientific Knowledge Assumes an Order and Consistency in Natural Systems**

- Science assumes that objects and events in natural systems occur in consistent patterns that are understandable through measurement and observation.

Note: Performance Expectations, Science and Engineering Practices, Disciplinary Core Ideas, and Crosscutting Concepts appear as defined in the Next Generation Science Standards.

MS-LS4-2 Biological Evolution: Unity and Diversity	
<p>Students who demonstrate understanding can:</p> <p>MS-LS4-2 Apply scientific ideas to construct an explanation for the anatomical similarities and differences among modern organisms and between modern and fossil organisms to infer evolutionary relationships. [Clarification Statement: Emphasis is on explanations of the evolutionary relationships among organisms in terms of similarity or differences of the gross appearance of anatomical structures.]</p>	
<p>Science and Engineering Practices</p> <p>SEP.6: Constructing Explanations and Designing Solutions</p> <p>Constructing explanations and designing solutions in 6–8 builds on K–5 experiences and progresses to include constructing explanations and designing solutions supported by multiple sources of evidence consistent with scientific ideas, principles, and theories.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply scientific ideas to construct an explanation for real-world phenomena, examples, or events. 	<p>Disciplinary Core Ideas</p> <p>LS4.A: Evidence of Common Ancestry and Diversity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anatomical similarities and differences between various organisms living today and between them and organisms in the fossil record, enable the reconstruction of evolutionary history and the inference of lines of evolutionary descent. <p>Crosscutting Concepts</p> <p>CC.1: Patterns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patterns can be used to identify cause and effect relationships. <p>-----</p> <p>Connections to Nature of Science</p> <p>Scientific Knowledge Assumes an Order and Consistency in Natural Systems</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Science assumes that objects and events in natural systems occur in consistent patterns that are understandable through measurement and observation.

Note: Performance Expectations, Science and Engineering Practices, Disciplinary Core Ideas, and Crosscutting Concepts appear as defined in the Next Generation Science Standards.

MS-LS4-3 Biological Evolution: Unity and Diversity	
Students who demonstrate understanding can:	
MS-LS4-3	Analyze displays of pictorial data to compare patterns of similarities in the embryological development across multiple species to identify relationships not evident in the fully formed anatomy. [Clarification Statement: Emphasis is on inferring general patterns of relatedness among embryos of different organisms by comparing the macroscopic appearance of diagrams or pictures.]
Science and Engineering Practices SEP.4: Analyzing and Interpreting Data Analyzing data in 6–8 builds on K–5 experiences and progresses to extending quantitative analysis to investigations, distinguishing between correlation and causation, and basic statistical techniques of data and error analysis. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analyze displays of data to identify linear and nonlinear relationships. 	Disciplinary Core Ideas LS4.A: Evidence of Common Ancestry and Diversity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comparison of the embryological development of different species also reveals similarities that show relationships not evident in the fully formed anatomy.
	Crosscutting Concepts CC.1: Patterns <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Graphs, charts, and images can be used to identify patterns in data.

MS-LS4-4 Biological Evolution: Unity and Diversity	
Students who demonstrate understanding can:	
MS-LS4-4	Construct an explanation based on evidence that describes how genetic variations of traits in a population increase some individuals' probability of surviving and reproducing in a specific environment. [Clarification Statement: Emphasis is on using simple probability statements and proportional reasoning to construct explanations.]
Essential	
Science and Engineering Practices SEP.6: Constructing Explanations and Designing Solutions Constructing explanations and designing solutions in 6–8 builds on K–5 experiences and progresses to include constructing explanations and designing solutions supported by multiple sources of evidence consistent with scientific ideas, principles, and theories. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construct an explanation that includes qualitative or quantitative relationships between variables that describe phenomena. 	Disciplinary Core Ideas LS4.B: Natural Selection <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Natural selection leads to the predominance of certain traits in a population, and the suppression of others.
	Crosscutting Concepts CC.2: Cause and Effect <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phenomena may have more than one cause, and some cause-and-effect relationships in systems can only be described using probability.

Note: Performance Expectations, Science and Engineering Practices, Disciplinary Core Ideas, and Crosscutting Concepts appear as defined in the Next Generation Science Standards.

MS-LS4-5 Biological Evolution: Unity and Diversity

Students who demonstrate understanding can:

- MS-LS4-5** **Gather and synthesize information about the technologies that have changed the way humans influence the inheritance of desired traits in organisms.** [Clarification Statement: Emphasis is on synthesizing information from reliable sources about the influence of humans on genetic outcomes in artificial selection (such as genetic modification, animal husbandry, gene therapy); and, on the impacts these technologies have on society as well as the technologies leading to these scientific discoveries.]

Science and Engineering Practices**SEP.8: Obtaining, Evaluating, and Communicating Information**

Obtaining, evaluating, and communicating information in 6–8 builds on K–5 experiences and progresses to evaluating the merit and validity of ideas and methods.

- Gather, read, and synthesize information from multiple appropriate sources and assess the credibility, accuracy, and possible bias of each publication and methods used, and describe how they are supported or not supported by evidence.

Disciplinary Core Ideas**LS4.B: Natural Selection**

- In *artificial* selection, humans have the capacity to influence certain characteristics of organisms by selective breeding. One can choose desired parental traits determined by genes, which are then passed on to offspring.

Crosscutting Concepts**CC.2: Cause and Effect**

- Phenomena may have more than one cause, and some cause-and-effect relationships in systems can only be described using probability.

Connections to Engineering, Technology, and Applications of Science**Interdependence of Science, Engineering, and Technology**

- Engineering advances have led to important discoveries in virtually every field of science, and scientific discoveries have led to the development of entire industries and engineered systems.

Connections to Nature of Science**Science Addresses Questions About the Natural and Material World**

- Scientific knowledge can describe the consequences of actions but does not necessarily prescribe the decisions that society takes.

Note: Performance Expectations, Science and Engineering Practices, Disciplinary Core Ideas, and Crosscutting Concepts appear as defined in the Next Generation Science Standards.

MS-LS4-6 Biological Evolution: Unity and Diversity

Students who demonstrate understanding can:

- MS-LS4-6** Use mathematical representations to support explanations of how natural selection may lead to increases and decreases of specific traits in populations over time. [Clarification Statement: Emphasis is on using mathematical models, probability statements, and proportional reasoning to support explanations of trends in changes to populations over time.]

Science and Engineering Practices**SEP.5: Using Mathematics and Computational Thinking**

Mathematical and computational thinking in 6–8 builds on K–5 experiences and progresses to identifying patterns in large data sets and using mathematical concepts to support explanations and arguments.

- Use mathematical representations to support scientific conclusions and design solutions.

Disciplinary Core Ideas**LS4.C: Adaptation**

- Adaptation by natural selection acting over generations is one important process by which species change over time in response to changes in environmental conditions. Traits that support successful survival and reproduction in the new environment become more common; those that do not become less common. Thus, the distribution of traits in a population changes.

Crosscutting Concepts**CC.2: Cause and Effect**

- Phenomena may have more than one cause, and some cause-and-effect relationships in systems can only be described using probability.

MS-ESS2-4 Earth's Systems

Students who demonstrate understanding can:

- MS-ESS2-4** Develop a model to describe the cycling of water through Earth's systems driven by energy from the sun and the force of gravity. [Clarification Statement: Emphasis is on the ways water changes its state as it moves through the multiple pathways of the hydrologic cycle. Examples of models can be conceptual or physical.]
- Essential**

Science and Engineering Practices**SEP.2: Developing and Using Models**

Modeling in 6–8 builds on K–5 experiences and progresses to developing, using, and revising models to describe, test, and predict more abstract phenomena and design systems.

- Develop a model to describe unobservable mechanisms.

Disciplinary Core Ideas**ESS2.C: The Roles of Water in Earth's Surface Processes**

- Water continually cycles among land, ocean, and atmosphere via transpiration, evaporation, condensation and crystallization, and precipitation, as well as downhill flows on land.
- Global movements of water and its changes in form are propelled by sunlight and gravity.

Crosscutting Concepts**CC.5: Energy and Matter**

- Within a natural or designed system, the transfer of energy drives the motion and/or cycling of matter.

Note: Performance Expectations, Science and Engineering Practices, Disciplinary Core Ideas, and Crosscutting Concepts appear as defined in the Next Generation Science Standards.

MS-ESS2-5 Earth's Systems

Students who demonstrate understanding can:

MS-ESS2-5 **Collect data to provide evidence for how the motions and complex interactions of air masses results in changes in weather conditions.** [Clarification Statement: Emphasis is on how air masses flow from regions of high pressure to low pressure, causing weather (defined by temperature, pressure, humidity, precipitation, and wind) at a fixed location to change over time, and how sudden changes in weather can result when different air masses collide. Emphasis is on how weather can be predicted within probabilistic ranges. Examples of data can be provided to students (such as weather maps, diagrams, and visualizations) or obtained through laboratory experiments (such as with condensation).]

Essential**Science and Engineering Practices****SEP.3: Planning and Carrying Out Investigations**

Planning and carrying out investigations in 6-8 builds on K-5 experiences and progresses to include investigations that use multiple variables and provide evidence to support explanations or solutions.

- Collect data to produce data to serve as the basis for evidence to answer scientific questions or test design solutions under a range of conditions.

Disciplinary Core Ideas**ESS2.C: The Roles of Water in Earth's Surface Processes**

- The complex patterns of the changes and the movement of water in the atmosphere, determined by winds, landforms, and ocean temperatures and currents, are major determinants of local weather patterns.

ESS2.D: Weather and Climate

- Because these patterns are so complex, weather can only be predicted probabilistically.

Crosscutting Concepts**CC.2: Cause and Effect**

- Cause and effect relationships may be used to predict phenomena in natural or designed systems.

Note: Performance Expectations, Science and Engineering Practices, Disciplinary Core Ideas, and Crosscutting Concepts appear as defined in the Next Generation Science Standards.

MS-ESS2-6 Earth's Systems	
<p>Students who demonstrate understanding can:</p> <p>MS-ESS2-6 Develop and use a model to describe how unequal heating and rotation of the Earth cause patterns of atmospheric and oceanic circulation that determine regional climates. [Clarification Statement: Emphasis is on how patterns vary by latitude, altitude, and geographic land distribution. Emphasis of atmospheric circulation is on the sunlight-driven latitudinal banding, the Coriolis effect, and resulting prevailing winds; emphasis of ocean circulation is on the transfer of heat by the global ocean convection cycle, which is constrained by the Coriolis effect and the outlines of continents. Examples of models can be diagrams, maps and globes, or digital representations.]</p>	
<div>Science and Engineering Practices</div> <p>SEP.2: Developing and Using Models</p> <p>Modeling in 6–8 builds on K–5 experiences and progresses to developing, using, and revising models to describe, test, and predict more abstract phenomena and design systems.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and use a model to describe phenomena. 	<div>Disciplinary Core Ideas</div> <p>ESS2.C: The Roles of Water in Earth's Surface Processes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Variations in density due to variations in temperature and salinity drive a global pattern of interconnected ocean currents. <p>ESS2.D: Weather and Climate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weather and climate are influenced by interactions involving sunlight, the ocean, the atmosphere, ice, landforms, and living things. These interactions vary with latitude, altitude, and local and regional geography, all of which can affect oceanic and atmospheric flow patterns. The ocean exerts a major influence on weather and climate by absorbing energy from the sun, releasing it over time, and globally redistributing it through ocean currents.
	<div>Crosscutting Concepts</div> <p>CC.4: Systems and System Models</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Models can be used to represent systems and their interactions—such as inputs, processes, and outputs—and energy, matter, and information flows within systems.

Note: Performance Expectations, Science and Engineering Practices, Disciplinary Core Ideas, and Crosscutting Concepts appear as defined in the Next Generation Science Standards.

MS-ESS3-3 Earth and Human Activity

Students who demonstrate understanding can:

- MS-ESS3-3** Apply scientific principles to design a method for monitoring and minimizing a human impact on the environment. [Clarification Statement: Examples of the design process include examining human environmental impacts, assessing the kinds of solutions that are feasible, and designing and evaluating solutions that could reduce that impact. Examples of human impacts can include water usage (such as the withdrawal of water from streams and aquifers or the construction of dams and levees), land usage (such as urban development, agriculture, or the removal of wetlands), and pollution (such as of the air, water, or land).]

Science and Engineering Practices**SEP.6: Constructing Explanations and Designing Solutions**

Constructing explanations and designing solutions in 6–8 builds on K–5 experiences and progresses to include constructing explanations and designing solutions supported by multiple sources of evidence consistent with scientific ideas, principles, and theories.

- Apply scientific principles to design an object, tool, process, or system.

Disciplinary Core Ideas**ESS3.C: Human Impacts on Earth Systems**

- Human activities have significantly altered the biosphere, sometimes damaging, or destroying natural habitats and causing the extinction of other species. But changes to Earth's environments can have different impacts (negative and positive) for different living things.
- Typically, as human populations and per-capita consumption of natural resources increase, so do the negative impacts on Earth unless the activities and technologies involved are engineered otherwise.

Crosscutting Concepts**CC.2: Cause and Effect**

- Relationships can be classified as causal or correlational, and correlation does not necessarily imply causation.

Connections to Engineering, Technology, and Applications of Science**Influence of Science, Engineering, and Technology on Society and the Natural World**

- The uses of technologies and any limitations on their use are driven by individual or societal needs, desires, and values; by the findings of scientific research; and by differences in such factors as climate, natural resources, and economic conditions. Thus, technology use varies from region to region and over time.

Note: Performance Expectations, Science and Engineering Practices, Disciplinary Core Ideas, and Crosscutting Concepts appear as defined in the Next Generation Science Standards.

MS-ESS3-4 Earth and Human Activity

Students who demonstrate understanding can:

- MS-ESS3-4** Construct an argument supported by evidence for how increases in human population and per-capita consumption of natural resources impact Earth's systems. [Clarification Statement: Examples of evidence include grade-appropriate databases on human populations and the rates of consumption of food and natural resources (such as freshwater, mineral, and energy). Examples of impacts can include changes to the appearance, composition, and structure of Earth's systems as well as the rates at which they change. The consequences of increases in human populations and consumption of natural resources are described by science, but science does not make the decisions for the actions society takes.]

Science and Engineering Practices**SEP.7: Engaging in Argument from Evidence**

Engaging in argument from evidence in 6–8 builds on K–5 experiences and progresses to constructing a convincing argument that supports or refutes claims for either explanations or solutions about the natural and designed world(s).

- Construct an oral and written argument supported by empirical evidence and scientific reasoning to support or refute an explanation or a model for a phenomenon or a solution to a problem.

Disciplinary Core Ideas**ESS3.C: Human Impacts on Earth Systems**

- Typically, as human populations and per-capita consumption of natural resources increase, so do the negative impacts on Earth unless the activities and technologies involved are engineered otherwise.

Crosscutting Concepts**CC.2: Cause and Effect**

- Cause and effect relationships may be used to predict phenomena in natural or designed systems.

Connections to Engineering, Technology, and Applications of Science**Influence of Science, Engineering, and Technology on Society and the Natural World**

- All human activity draws on natural resources and has both short and long-term consequences, positive as well as negative, for the health of people and the natural environment.

Connections to Nature of Science**Science Addresses Questions About the Natural and Material World**

- Scientific knowledge can describe the consequences of actions but does not necessarily prescribe the decisions that society takes.

Note: Performance Expectations, Science and Engineering Practices, Disciplinary Core Ideas, and Crosscutting Concepts appear as defined in the Next Generation Science Standards.

MS-ESS3-5 Earth and Human Activity

Students who demonstrate understanding can:

- MS-ESS3-5** **Ask questions to clarify evidence of the factors that have caused the rise in global temperatures over time.** [Clarification Statement: Examples of factors include human activities (such as fossil fuel combustion, cement production, and agricultural activity) and natural processes (such as changes in incoming solar radiation or volcanic activity). Examples of evidence can include tables, graphs, and maps of global and regional temperatures, atmospheric levels of gases such as carbon dioxide and methane, and the rates of human activities. Emphasis is on the major role that human activities play in causing the rise in global temperatures.]
- Essential**

Science and Engineering Practices**SEP.1: Asking Questions and Defining Problems**

Asking questions and defining problems in grades 6–8 builds on grades K–5 experiences and progresses to specifying relationships between variables and clarifying arguments and models.

- Ask questions to identify and clarify evidence of an argument.

Disciplinary Core Ideas**ESS3.D: Global Climate Change**

- Human activities, such as the release of greenhouse gases from burning fossil fuels, are major factors in the current rise in Earth's mean surface temperature (global warming). Reducing the level of climate change and reducing human vulnerability to whatever climate changes do occur depend on the understanding of climate science, engineering capabilities, and other kinds of knowledge, such as understanding of human behavior and on applying that knowledge wisely in decisions and activities.

Crosscutting Concepts**CC.7: Stability and Change**

- Stability might be disturbed either by sudden events or gradual changes that accumulate over time.

Note: Performance Expectations, Science and Engineering Practices, Disciplinary Core Ideas, and Crosscutting Concepts appear as defined in the Next Generation Science Standards.

MS-ETS1-1 Engineering Design

Students who demonstrate understanding can:

MS-ETS1-1 Define the criteria and constraints of a design problem with sufficient precision to ensure a successful solution, taking into account relevant scientific principles and potential impacts on people and the natural environment that may limit possible solutions.

Essential

Science and Engineering Practices**SEP.1: Asking Questions and Defining Problems**

Asking questions and defining problems in grades 6–8 builds on grades K–5 experiences and progresses to specifying relationships between variables and clarifying arguments and models.

- Define a design problem that can be solved through the development of an object, tool, process, or system and includes multiple criteria and constraints, including scientific knowledge that may limit possible solutions.

Disciplinary Core Ideas**ETS1.A: Defining and Delimiting Engineering Problems**

- The more precisely a design task's criteria and constraints can be defined, the more likely it is that the designed solution will be successful. Specification of constraints includes consideration of scientific principles and other relevant knowledge that are likely to limit possible solutions.

Crosscutting Concepts**Influence of Science, Engineering, and Technology on Society and the Natural World**

- All human activity draws on natural resources and has both short and long-term consequences, positive as well as negative, for the health of people and the natural environment.
- The uses of technologies and limitations on their use are driven by individual or societal needs, desires, and values; by the findings of scientific research; and by differences in such factors as climate, natural resources, and economic conditions.

MS-ETS1-2 Engineering Design

Students who demonstrate understanding can:

MS-ETS1-2 Evaluate competing design solutions using a systematic process to determine how well they meet the criteria and constraints of the problem.

Science and Engineering Practices**SEP.7: Engaging in Argument from Evidence**

Engaging in argument from evidence in 6–8 builds on K–5 experiences and progresses to constructing a convincing argument that supports or refutes claims for either explanations or solutions about the natural and designed world.

- Evaluate competing design solutions based on jointly developed and agreed-upon design criteria.

Disciplinary Core Ideas**ETS1.B: Developing Possible Solutions**

- There are systematic processes for evaluating solutions with respect to how well they meet the criteria and constraints of a problem.

Note: Performance Expectations, Science and Engineering Practices, Disciplinary Core Ideas, and Crosscutting Concepts appear as defined in the Next Generation Science Standards.

MS-ETS1-3 Engineering Design

Students who demonstrate understanding can:

MS-ETS1-3 Analyze data from tests to determine similarities and differences among several design solutions to identify the best characteristics of each that can be combined into a new solution to better meet the criteria for success.

Science and Engineering Practices**SEP.4: Analyzing and Interpreting Data**

Analyzing data in 6–8 builds on K–5 experiences and progresses to extending quantitative analysis to investigations, distinguishing between correlation and causation, and basic statistical techniques of data and error analysis.

- Analyze and interpret data to determine similarities and differences in findings.

Disciplinary Core Ideas**ETS1.B: Developing Possible Solutions**

- There are systematic processes for evaluating solutions with respect to how well they meet the criteria and constraints of a problem.
- Sometimes parts of different solutions can be combined to create a solution that is better than any of its predecessors.

ETS1.C: Optimizing the Design Solution

- Although one design may not perform the best across all tests, identifying the characteristics of the design that performed the best in each test can provide useful information for the redesign process—that is, some of those characteristics may be incorporated into the new design.

MS-ETS1-4 Engineering Design

Students who demonstrate understanding can:

MS-ETS1-4 Develop a model to generate data for iterative testing and modification of a proposed object, tool, or process such that an optimal design can be achieved.

Science and Engineering Practices**SEP.2: Developing and Using Models**

Modeling in 6–8 builds on K–5 experiences and progresses to developing, using, and revising models to describe, test, and predict more abstract phenomena and design systems.

- Develop a model to generate data to test ideas about designed systems, including those representing inputs and outputs.

Disciplinary Core Ideas**ETS1.B: Developing Possible Solutions**

- A solution needs to be tested, and then modified on the basis of the test results, in order to improve it.
- Models of all kinds are important for testing solutions.

ETS1.C: Optimizing the Design Solution

- The iterative process of testing the most promising solutions and modifying what is proposed on the basis of the test results leads to greater refinement and ultimately to an optimal solution.

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